



Nomination of Hill Forts of Rajasthan for inclusion on World Heritage List



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2a. Description of Property

Gagron



GAGRON

SUMMARY

Gagron Fort, located about 10 Kms from the town of Jhalawar surrounded by the waters of the Ahu and Kali Sindh rivers on three sides is considered as one of the finest example of water hill fort, looming out on the crest of the Vindhyan hill range where the two rivers meet. It is separated from the nearby village by a deep ditch cut in solid rock and crossed by a stone bridge.

Gagron fort is an excellent example of defense planning of the Doda and Khinchi Rajputs from the 12th century. It is effectively protected on three sides by a set of double fortification walls along with access to rivers on both sides adding to a natural buffer from the enemy. The river served as a continuous water resource and in addition, there exist two clusters of five wells each within the fort. The site has gateways, kunds, temples and palaces within .



View of Gagron Side
Source: Dilmeet Garewal

● Site context

Gagron Fort, located about 10 Kms from the town of Jhalawar surrounded by the waters of the Ahu and Kali Sindh rivers on three sides is considered as one of the finest example of water fort, looming out on the crest of the Vindhyan hill range where the two rivers meet. It is separated from the nearby village by a deep ditch cut in solid rock and crossed by a stone bridge.



View of Gagron from the rear showing the fort structure as it stands on the solid rock with a double fortification layer seen at a higher level

Source:Dronah

The exit of the fort is to the south-east through a simple opening in the wall, from which a descent leads to the end wall immediately over the river. Hence there is a path which, going back towards the village outside the fort, crosses a small precipice protected by ramparts 20 or 22 mts above the ground and leads to two bastions. On the north-east face there is but one wall, the precipitous nature of the hill here rendering a second and lower wall. The hills and the valleys to the north across the Kali Sindh are thickly wooded and the gorge by which the river finds its way out in to the open plains is very fine, high precipices with woody slopes alternating on either side. One precipice, absolutely vertical, that was plumbbed and found to be 93.6 mts in height is known as gidh-karai

or vulture's cliff and it is said that it was formerly used as a place of execution by the Hada Rajputs of Kota, the victims being hurled on the rocks below. The top of these ridges are the culminating points of the range.



The Kali Sindh river with portions of the fort on the north east



The Ahu river with the arcaded bridge leading to the Gagron fort

● Site Planning

Gagron fort is an excellent example of defense planning of the Doda and Khinchi Rajputs from the 12th century. It is effectively protected on three sides by a set of double fortification walls along with access to rivers on both sides adding to a natural buffer from the enemy. The river served as a continuous water resource and in addition, there exist two clusters of five wells each within the fort.

The main entrance to the fort is from the Ganesh Pol to the north. The first court to the east after the two entrance gateways – Ganesh Pol and Nakkar Khana Gate, houses the Jauhar Kund and small associated structures. Further east, it leads to the second court, in which the Sheesh Mahal, Darikhana and Zenana and Mardana Mahal are located. This palace construction seems to be 16th century with later additions from 18th - 19th century. The Palace area is entered from the east through the Bhairu Pol. The Madhusudan Temple is located at a higher level from the Bhairu Pol.



The fort walls rising out of the natural rocks near the Ahu and Kali Sindh rivers

Some ancillary structures run along the ridgeline supported on one side by the inner fortification wall. Top Khana and Sileh Khana are also located along this ridgeline as a series of rooms fronted by verandahs. The Barud Khana is located to the north of Sileh Khana and Top Khana. Next to the Top Khana is the Krishna Dwar and its surrounding structures. This gateway complex leads into the next court through a series of three rooms. The stables are located further east, near the Purva Dwar.

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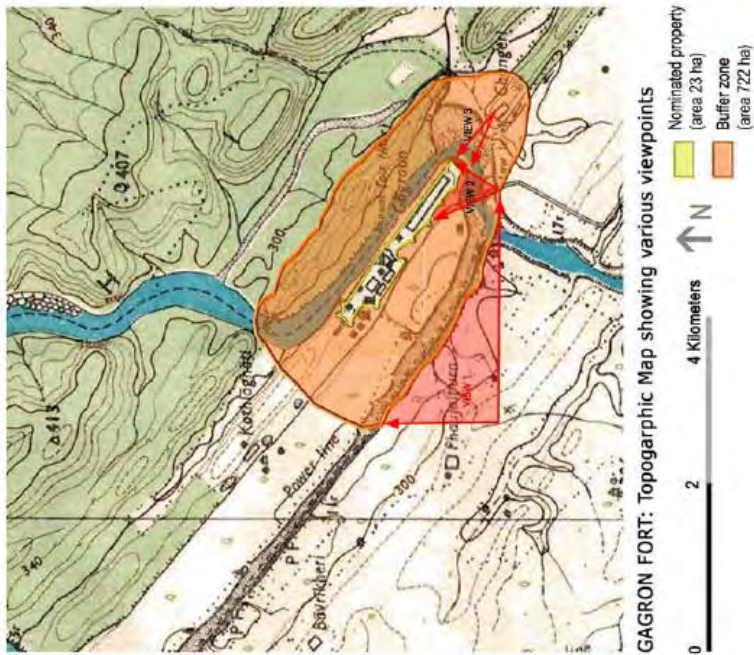
The last court on the eastern end is confined between the outer fortification wall in the rear and the inner fortification wall. The outer fortification wall loops into a major rampart in the rear providing opportunity for leisure at the confluence of the rivers. Outside the main fortification, and on the west of the Ganesh Pol are located the Dargah, some habitation, the Chaturbujnath Temple, the Ramchandraj Temple and the Madan Mohan Temple. This is accessible from outside the fortification by the Suraj Pol to the east. The Hanuman Temple is also located near the gateway.



A structure rising up the natural rocks along the inner fort wall, facing south

Further west is the Raniwas – currently being used as a school complex. There is a gate at the western end of the fort, surrounded by a wall of 25 metres radius, called the Karishma Tower allowing a full view of the landscape beyond.

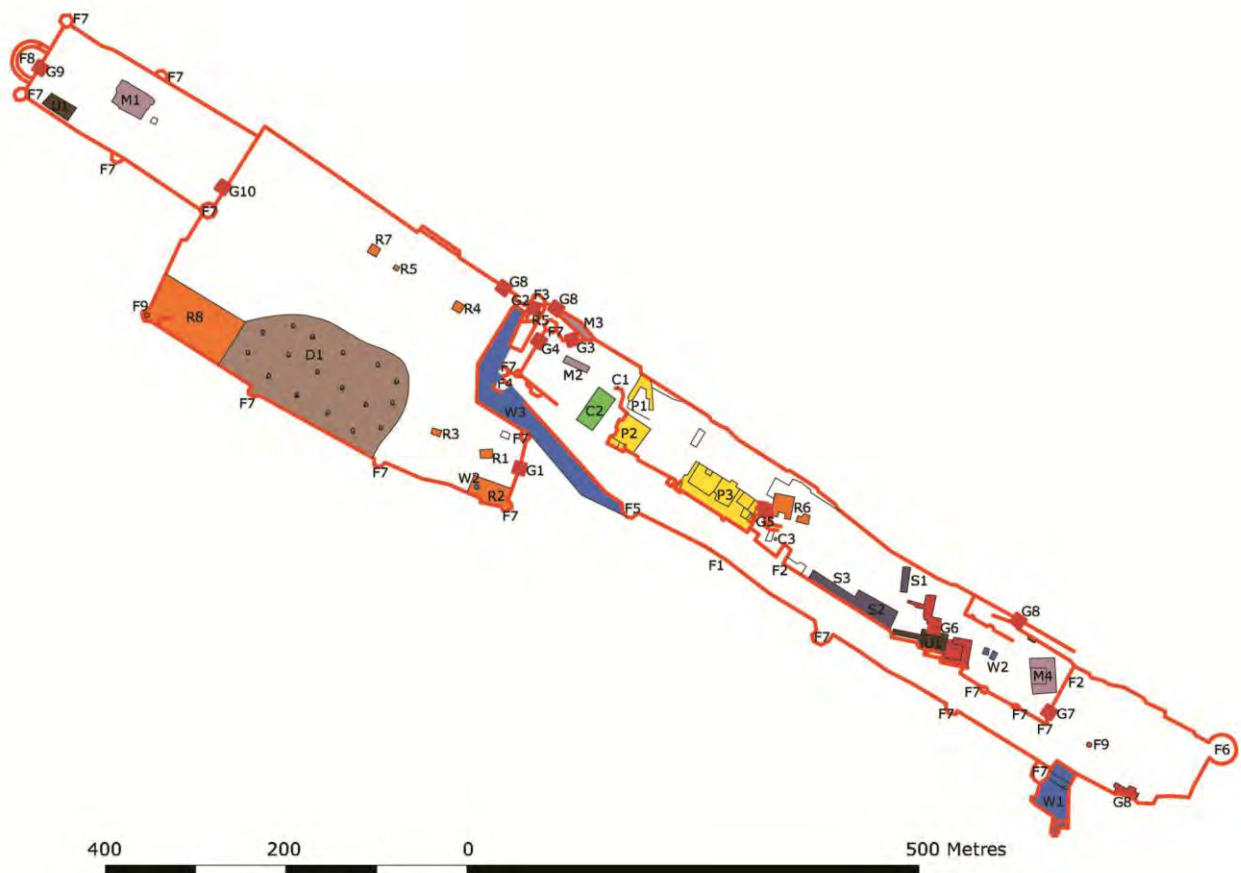
Viewpoints to and from fort



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FORT WALL AND BASTIONS

- F1. Outer Fortification Wall
- F2. Inner Fortification Wall
- F3. Chunda Burj
- F4. Goverdhan Burj
- F5. Lakshman Burj
- F6. Ram Burj
- F7. Bastion
- F8. Karishma Tower
- F9. Cannon Stand

GATES

- G1. Suraj Pol
- G2. Ganesh Pol
- G3. Nakkar Khana Gate
- G4. Lal Darwaza
- G5. Bhairu Pol
- G6. Krishna Dwar
- G7. Purva Dwar
- G8. River Gate
- G9. Gate near Karishma Tower
- G10. Gate

CHHATRIS / CENOTAPHS / MEMORIALS

- C1. Jattarmal Ki Chhatri
- C2. Jauhar Kund
- C3. Chhatri near Madhusudan Temple

PALACE AREA

- P1. Sheesh Mahal
- P2. Darikhana
- P3. Zenana and Mardana Mahal

RELIGIOUS STRUCTURES

- R1. Madan Mohan Temple
- R2. Hanuman Temple
- R3. Ramchandraj Temple
- R4. Mosque
- R5. Ganesh Temple
- R6. Madhusudan Temple
- R7. Chaturbujnath Temple
- R8. Dargah

STORES

- S1. Barud Khana
- S2. Top Khana
- S3. Sileh Khana

RUINS

- U1. Ruins

WATER STRUCTURES

- W1. Baori
- W2. Well
- W3. Moat

HABITATION

- D1. Gagr Village

OTHERS

- M1. Raniwas - School Building
- M2. Tibari
- M3. Chowkidar Cabin
- M4. Stable

Note: Few recent structures such as office blocks are also present



Scale: 1:7500

SITE COMPONENTS - GAGRON FORT

FORT WALLS & BASTIONS

■ Outer Fortification Wall as shown on the plan (F1)

● **Period of construction** 12th century AD **Patron** Khinchi Rajputs

Usage defense

● Architectural form and details

The outer fortification wall is typical of medieval fortifications interspersed with circular bastions and crowned with large *kanguras* (crenellations) at the top in most places. The ramparts raise up to 20 to 30 mts above the ground



Outer fortification wall

● Construction Materials

Random rubble stone masonry in lime mortar. Portions of wall show that it may have been plastered with lime. A portion of the wall has dry masonry in stone and may be an earlier historic layer.

■ Inner Fortification Wall as shown on the plan (F2)

● **Period of construction** 15th century AD **Patron** Khinchi Rajputs

Usage defense

● Architectural form and details

The inner fortification wall is also interspersed with circular bastions and crowned with large *kanguras* (crenellations) on the top. The ramparts rise up to 10 to 15 mts above the ground. This wall extends from Jauhar Kund on the west to Purva Dwar on the east.



Inner fortification wall

● Construction Materials

Random rubble stone masonry in lime mortar. Portions of wall show that it may have been plastered with lime in earlier times.

■ Chunda Burj (F3)

- **Period of construction** 15th century AD **Patron** Khinchi Rajputs
- **Usage** defense



Chunda Burj

● Architectural form and details

The bastion is located on the north-west side of the fort. 25 mts high, the tower is wider at the bottom and tapers towards the top. It is crowned with large *kanguras*.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble stone masonry in lime mortar.

- **Goverdhan Burj (F4)**

- **Period of construction** 15th century AD **Patron** Khinchi Rajputs
- **Usage** defense



Goverdhan Burj

- **Architectural form and details**

The bastion is located on the south-west side of the moat, and its foundation falls inside the moat. The tower is wider at the bottom and tapers towards the top, and is crowned with large *kanguras*, typical of Rajput fortification in the region.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble stone masonry in lime mortar.

- **Lakshman Burj (F5)**

- **Period of construction** 15th century AD **Patron** Khinchi Rajputs
- **Usage** defense

- **Architectural form and details**

The bastion is located on the southern side of the fort. The tower is wider at the bottom and tapers towards the top, and is crowned with large *kanguras*, typical of Rajput fortification in the region.

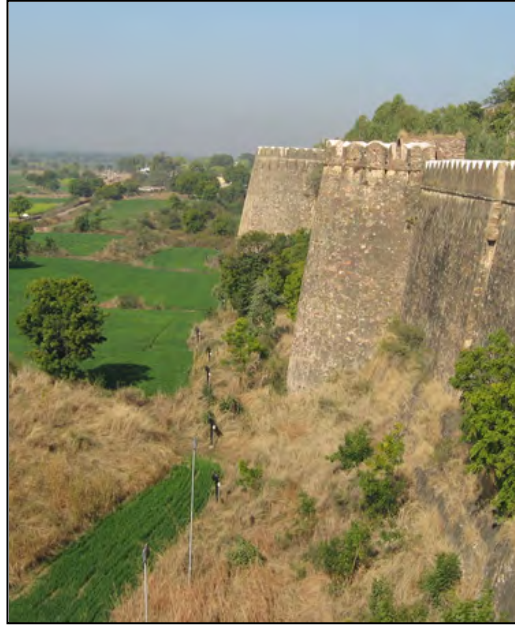
- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble stone masonry in lime mortar.

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Lakshman Burj

■ Ram Burj (F6)

- **Period of construction** 15th century AD, reconstructed in 18-19th century AD **Patron** Khinchi Rajputs
- Usage** defense



Ram Burj

● Architectural form and details

Named after Maharao Ram Singh, who reconstructed it in the 17th century AD, the bastion lies on the north-eastern part of the fort. It is about 20 mts high with a uniform radius from top to bottom, and is crowned with large *kanguras*.

● Construction Materials

Random rubble stone masonry in lime mortar.

■ Karishma Tower (F8)

- **Period of construction** 18-19th century AD
- Usage** defense

Patron Hada/Jhala Rajputs



Karishma Tower

- **Architectural form and details**

The Karishma Tower is a circular wall with a radius of 25 mts around a gate on the western end of the fort. It is crowned by *kanguras* at its top.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble stone masonry in lime mortar.

- **Others**



Cannon stand (F9)

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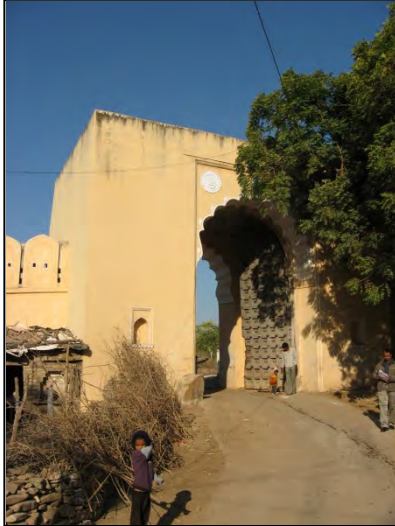
GATES

■ Suraj Pol (G1)

● **Period of construction** 18th century AD

Patron Jhala Rajputs

Usage Entrance gateway



Cusped archway of Suraj Pol with metal spikes on the wooden gate

● **Architectural form and details**

The cusped arch style and paintings on the ceiling as well as circular flower motifs indicate the gate to be of 18th century AD style.

● **Construction Materials**

Random rubble masonry in lime mortar and lime plaster with stucco work.

■ Ganesh Pol (G2)

● **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD

Patron Jhala Rajputs

Usage Entrance gateway



Ganesh Pol

- **Architectural form and details**

The Ganesh Pol is surrounded by three bastions. The cusped arch style and paintings on ceiling as well as circular flower motifs indicate the gate to be of 18th century AD, Hadauti style.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble masonry in lime mortar and lime plaster with stucco work.

■ **Nakkar Khana Gate (G3)**

- **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD **Patron** Zalim Singh Jhala
Usage Entrance gateway



Nakkar Khana Gate

- **Architectural form and details**

The architectural styles of this gate include cusped and semicircular arches prevalent in the Hadauti region in late 18th to 19th centuries. The design incorporates a large entrance archway crowned with triple arched Nakkar Khana space (used for announcements) on the first floor.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble masonry in lime mortar finished with lime plaster and lime /*khameera* wash.

■ **Lal Darwaza (G4)**

- **Period of construction** 16th century AD **Patron** Rathore Rajputs
Usage Entrance gateway



Lal Darwaza

- **Architectural form and details**

Constructed in red sandstone, the Lal Darwaza is situated near the Nakkar Khana along the western edge of the fort. There are paintings and engravings inside the gate which may be interventions of later 18th-19th century AD.

- **Construction Materials**

Red Sandstone.

- **Bhairu Pol (G5)**

- **Period of construction** 16th century AD

Patron Rathore Rajputs

Usage Entrance gateway



Bhairu Pol

- **Architectural form and details**

The Bhairu Pol is surrounded by 30 ft high towers, and leads to the Palace from the east. Above the gate and around the western area, there are rooms built. The entrance is marked by two *chhatris* along the gate, in which the inscriptions on either side represents the Mughal style.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble masonry in lime mortar finished with lime plaster and lime /*khameera* wash.

■ **Krishna Dwar (G6)**

● **Period of construction** 12th century AD **Patron** Khinchi Rajputs

Usage Entrance gateway

- **Architectural form and details**

This gate can be dated to the same period as the fort walls reflecting the post and beam style. The pointed arch gate seems to be of a later period possibly built by the Sisodia Rajputs.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble stone masonry in lime mortar. Portions of wall show that it may have been plastered with lime in earlier times.



Krishna Dwar

■ **Purva Dwar (G7)**

● **Period of construction** 12th century AD **Patron** Khinchi Rajputs

Usage Entrance gateway

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- **Architectural form and details**

This gate is located on the eastern part of the inner fortification wall. It is a simple gateway with no ornamental details, leading to the stables.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble stone masonry in lime mortar and lime plastered



Purva Dwar

■ River Gate (G8)

- **Period of construction** 15th century AD, may have been repaired and added later

Patron Khinchi Rajputs

Usage gateway to the river



River Gate

- **Architectural form and details**

River gates are openings on the outer fortification wall, and are access to the rivers Kali Sindh to the north and Ahu to the south. There are three river gates that open towards the north and one towards the south.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble masonry in lime mortar.

- **Pol near Karishma Tower (G9)**

- **Period of construction** 18-19th century AD

Patron Hada/Jhala Rajputs

Usage Entrance gateway



Pol near Karishma tower

- **Architectural form and details**

This gate is the western gate of the fort. It is surrounded by the Karishma Tower, which is a circular wall of radius 25 mts. The architectural style of this gate includes cusped arches.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble masonry in lime mortar finished with lime plaster and lime /*khameera* wash.

- **Pol (G10)**

- **Period of construction** 16th century AD

Patron Rathores/Mughals

Usage Entrance gateway



Pol

- **Architectural form and details**

This gate is an entrance gateway to the west court of the fort. It leads to the Raniwas. The architectural style includes a pointed arch.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble masonry in lime mortar.

PALACE AREA

■ Sheesh Mahal (P1)

● **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD **Patron** Jhala Rajputs

Usage Palace area



Sheesh Mahal



Western facade of Sheesh Mahal & Darikhana along Jauhar Kund

● **Architectural form and details**

The Palace structure is in complete ruins. Though the structure may have existed earlier, it probably came to be known as Sheesh Mahal under the Jhala Rajputs in the 18th-19th century. The term is synonymous with palatial areas of 18th-19th century AD decorated with glass inlay work and possibly the rooms housed art work earlier which is completely destroyed now.

● **Construction Materials**

Ruins show structure of random rubble masonry in lime mortar with stone columns.

■ Darikhana (P2)

● **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD **Patron** Jhala Rajputs

Usage Palace area



Darikhana

● Architectural form and details

The Darikhana extends from Jauhar Kund to the Mardana Mahal. It is a two storied structure with a central court. Over a period of time, this courtyard has been divided by walls that accommodate soldiers at times of war. The arched colonnades have been closed to form rooms for accommodation. With so many alterations, the original form of the structure is difficult to predict.

● Construction Materials

Ruins show structure of random rubble masonry in lime mortar with stone columns.

■ Zenana and Mardana Mahal (P3)

● **Period of construction** 15th - 19th century AD **Patron** Sisodia and Jhala Rajputs

Usage Palace area with women's and men's quarters

● Architectural form and details

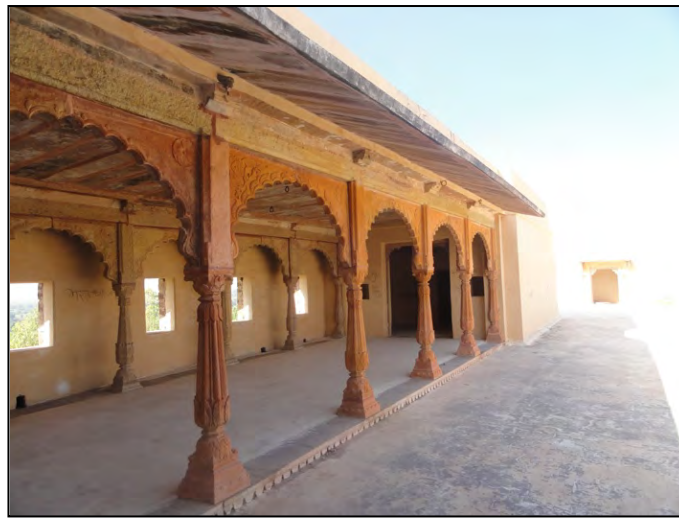
Close to the Darikhana, this Palace building is a two storied structure occupying maximum area in the fort. It is of linear formation with courtyards and rectangular/square cellular rooms. The architectural styles reflect layers of history and it seems that the palace structure may have existed and was rebuilt by later rulers. The most prominent style is of Zalim Singh Jhala who spent maximum number of years here such as the foliated ornamentation in arched opening from the 19th century AD. However, few features such as the ornately carved stone *jharokhas* reveal earlier origins of the palace contemporary to the styles used by Mewar rulers who occupied the fort in 15th-16th century AD.



Main entrance to Zenana Mahal



Courtyard at Mardana Mahal



Terrace at Zenana Mahal



Mardana Mahal

● **Construction Materials**

Stone structure with lime stucco and wall paintings from 19th century AD

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RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

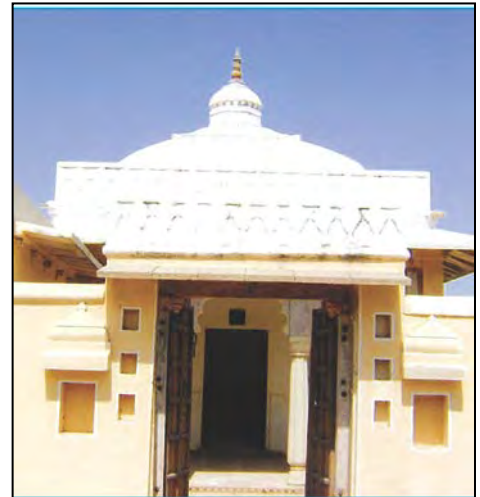
■ Madan Mohan Temple (R1)

- **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD **Patron** Jhala Rajputs

Usage Hindu Vaishnava temple



Madan Mohan temple



Main entrance to Madan Mohan temple

● Architectural form and details

Located near the Suraj Pol, this is a temple in the complex of the Haveli type without *shikhara* reflecting the Vaishnava philosophy of the period.

● Construction Materials

Lime plastered stone walls with decorative lime stucco work at the entrance gate.

■ Hanuman Temple (R2)

- **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD **Patron** Jhala Rajputs

Usage Hindu temple



Hanuman temple

- **Architectural form and details**

Located near the Suraj Pol and to the southern part of the fort, this is a *haveli* type temple without *shikhara*.

- **Construction Materials**

Lime plastered stone walls.

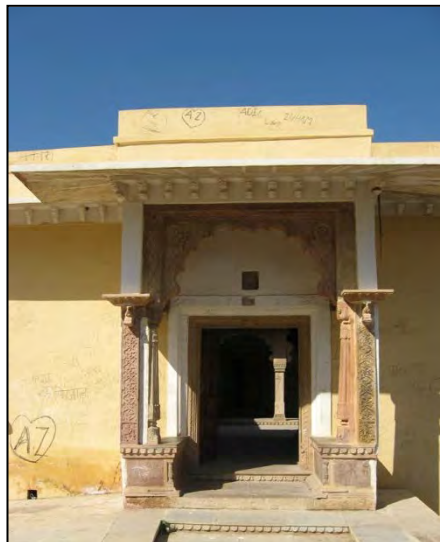
- **Madhusudan Temple (R6)**

- **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD **Patron** Jhala Rajputs

Usage Hindu Vaishnava temple



Madhusudan Mandir



Entrance to Madhusudan temple

- **Architectural form and details**

The temple structure located near the Bhairon Pol, is without a *shikhara* on the pattern of *haveli* temples that were a popular temple type in 18th -19th century AD in Rajasthan, promoted by the Vaishnava sect.

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- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble stone structure with lime plaster and lime wash having architectural elements such as projected balconies and brackets in sandstone

- **Chaturbujnath Temple (R7)**

- **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD **Patron** Jhala Rajputs

Usage Hindu temple



Chaturbujnath temple

- **Architectural form and details**

This temple is located a little further to the west of the Mosque. It is a two storied structure with cusped arches on the first floor. On the west façade, there is a projected balcony.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble stone structure with lime plaster and lime wash having architectural elements such as projected balconies and brackets in sandstone.

- **Dargah (R8)**

- **Period of construction** 16th century AD **Patron** Rathores/Mughals

Usage Muslim shrine

- **Architectural form and details**

The Dargah is located on the west of the fort, beside the habitation, and is accessed by a gate from the east. The main structure has cusped arches on the ground floor and a dome above.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble stone structure with lime plaster and lime wash.



Entrance to the Dargah

Other Religious Structures



Ramchandraji temple (R3)



Mosque (R4)



Ganesh temple (R5)

CHHATRI/CENOTAPHS/MEMORIALS

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■ Kattarmal ki Chhatri (C1)

● **Period of construction** 18th-19th Century AD

Patron Jhala Rajputs

Usage memorial



Kattarmal ki Chhatri

● Architectural form and details

This *chhatri* is located beside the Jauhar Kund. It has a small domical roof on square base representing the Rajput *chhatri* form of 18th-19th century AD.

● Construction Materials

Cut stone arches and columns and *chhatri* with lime stucco work on the base.

■ Jauhar Kund (C2)

● **Period of construction** 15th century AD

Patron Khinchi Rajputs

Usage memorial (*Jauhar* was performed atleast twice in the Jauhar kund)



Jauhar Kund

STORES

■ **Top Khana and Sileh Khana (S2 & S3)**

● **Period of construction** 12-16th century AD **Patron** Khinchis/Rathores/Mughals

Usage Store for arms, ammunitions and cannons



Sileh Khana



Top Khana

● **Architectural form and details**

The Top Khana and Sileh Khana are located near the Madhusudan Temple, running along the ridgeline supported on one side by the inner fortification wall. They are a series of rooms fronted by verandahs. In the rooms are Y-shaped stone supports which are placed in pairs in a row of five each, along the length of the room. These features are further queered by the presence of large square shaped stone tanks, which have carved stone lids.

● **Construction Materials**

Lime plastered stone walls.

RUINS



Ruins along inner fortification walls



Ruins near Krishna Dwar



Ruins near Madhusudan Temple

WATER STRUCTURES



Baori (W1)



Well (W2)



Moat (W3)

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HABITATION



Habitation near the Dargah of Muslim population (D1)



Habitation near the Dargah

OTHERS

■ Stables (M4)

- **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD, may have existed before **Patron** Jhala Rajputs
Usage stables



Stables

- **Architectural form and details**

The Stables are located near the Purva Dwar on the eastern part within the inner fortification walls. They are courtyard structures with colonnades of cusped arches on all sides.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble masonry with lime plastered walls.

■ Raniwas (M1)

- **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD **Patron** Jhala Rajputs
Usage Palace for royal women

- **Architectural form and details**

The Raniwas is located on the west court of the fort. It is a complex with a few structures around a central hall, and was probably used by the queen. The central hall has beams resting on bracketed columns. The facades of the buildings have cusped arches and *chajjas* resting on brackets.

It is presently used as a school.

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Raniwas School

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble masonry with lime plastered walls, dressed stone for columns and *chajjas*.

- **Tibari (M2)**

- **Period of construction** 18th-19th century AD

Patron Jhala Rajputs

Usage originally an open arched pavilion



Tibari

- **Architectural form and details**

The tibari has a rectangular plan and is located to the south of the Nakkar Khana gate. It has a cusped arch opening and bracket supported *chajja*. It may originally have been a triple arched open pavilion that was built on later.

- **Construction Materials**

Random rubble masonry with lime plastered and lime washed walls.